

Sanitized - Approved For Release

001484900300270009-4

COPYRIGHT

FAMILY OF POWERS PRAISES ATTORNEY

U-2 Pilot's Wife and Parents
'Impressed' by Russian—
Parley Called 'Useful'

By SEYMOUR TOPPING

Special to The New York Times.

MOSCOW, Aug. 15 — The family of Francis Gary Powers was "impressed" today with his Soviet defense lawyer.

They came away from a meeting satisfied that the Russian would do his best at the pilot's espionage trial, opening here Wednesday.

Several hours after he had conversed at an undisclosed site with the prisoner, Mikhail K. Grinev, the Kremlin-appointed defense counsel, received Mrs. Powers and the pilot's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver W. Powers of Pound, Va., in his small pine-walled consulting room.

What Mr. Grinev told the family was not revealed tonight under the terms of an agreement among the Soviet attorney and the three legal advisers of the family who attended the meeting in Mr. Grinev's rooms at the Soviet judicial consulta-

COPYRIGHT

tion office in downtown Moscow. However, after the meeting the parents said in a statement:

"The conference was most useful and we have confidence that he will do all possible to help our son."

The eighty-minute conference gave the Powers their first talk with someone who has seen the pilot since he parachuted into Soviet captivity from his high-flying U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk May 1.

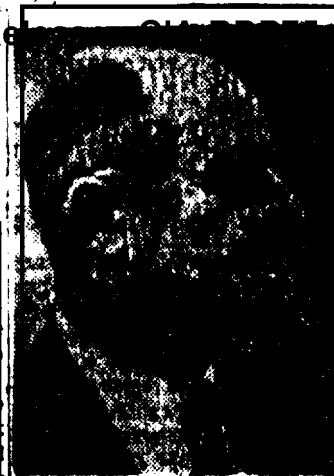
The pilot's wife, visibly upset as the trial of her husband approached, made no statement. But her two legal advisers appointed by the Virginia Bar Association, Alexander W. Parker and Frank W. Rogers, said she "had confidence and was favorably impressed" by the defense counsel.

Mrs. Powers and the pilot's mother, both of whom are under physicians' care, were shaken when their party had to force its way through about 300 curious Russians to reach their cars on leaving Mr. Grinev's office.

Earlier, Mrs. Powers sent a telegram to her husband from her hotel advising that she was in Moscow and would try to see him as often as circumstances permitted. According to her advisers, Mrs. Powers and her parents have just about given up hope that they will see the pilot before he goes on trial in the Hall of Columns of the House of Trade Unions.

Under Soviet law, relatives of an accused may attend a trial. But no such assurance has been given to the Powers family.

The Powers also met, this



Associated Press Wirephoto
LAWYER FOR POWERS:
Mikhail K. Grinev, named by Soviet Union to defend Francis Gary Powers, talks with newsmen in Moscow Sunday morning.

afternoon with Vladimir Babkin, head of the American department of Intourist, the Soviet travel agency. He has acted as their contact with the Soviet Government. Mr. Babkin agreed to forward the family's request to meet with Premier Khrushchev.

Mr. Grinev, a bearded man in his sixties, seated the family at a table under a Lenin photograph on the wall.

'Executive Session'

Mr. Parker called the meeting an "executive session held in confidence." He said:

"It was a highly satisfactory conference with defense counsel discussing points of his case. We were impressed with his sincerity, apparent ability and frankness."

"We were very favorably impressed with him, his apparent ability and his desire to cooperate left us feeling that although this is a heavy and grave job

has got. I think that was the feeling generally throughout our group."

Mr. Parker said the Soviet lawyer spoke some English but preferred to use an interpreter. When Western reporters crowded into his office, Mr. Grinev shouted in English: "Please get out of here. This is a private conference."

Not Tense 'Grave Case'
Mr. Parker quoted Mr. Grinev as having told the family that the Powers case was "not the first experience he has had in being appointed as defense counsel for an accused in a grave case. He observed that he had acted in an official capacity in the Nuremberg trial of German war criminals."

Mr. Parker said the family did not speak by the large crowd that gathered outside the building when word spread that the Powers family was inside. The lawyer said he saw no evidence of hostility in the crowd which pressed about them as they entered.

The family's arrival in Moscow Saturday has not been reported in the Soviet press.

Mrs. Powers, wearing a black dress and a black hat, drove to the meeting with her two legal advisers. The parents went in another car, although they are staying at the same hotel.

FOIAb3b

COPYRIGHT